

I am proud to recognize Marshall's achievements and wish him and his wife, Karen, along with their daughters, Morgan Alyssa and Elsa Breanne, well as they pursue new endeavors.

IRAQ'S STRUGGLING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues a letter I sent yesterday to Secretary Rice regarding the plight of Iraq's struggling Christian community.

It is my hope that people of faith throughout the country contact both the incoming and outgoing administrations and urge immediate action to protect this ancient community, some of whom still speak Aramaic, the language of Jesus.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 8, 2009.

Hon. CONDOLEEZZA RICE,
Secretary of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY RICE: Millions around the world just celebrated Christmas. In churches and homes throughout our own country children learned of Mary, Joseph, a census, a stable—of Nazareth and Bethlehem and other far away places. These lands of old that are found throughout the Bible are still home to ancient Christian communities with deep spiritual and cultural roots. In fact, with the exception of Israel, the Bible contains more references to the cities, regions and nations of ancient Iraq than any other country.

The patriarch Abraham came from a city in Iraq called Ur. Isaac's bride, came from northwest Iraq. Jacob spent 20 years in Iraq and his sons (the 12 tribes of Israel) were born in northwest Iraq. A remarkable spiritual revival as told in the book of Jonah occurred in Nineveh. The events of the book of Esther took place in Iraq as did the account of Daniel in the Lion's Den.

Tragically Iraq's ancient Christian community is facing extinction on this administration's watch. According to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), Iraq's Christian population has fallen from as many as 1.4 million in 2003 to between 500,000 and 700,000 at present. USCIRF also reports that "while Christians and other religious minorities represented only approximately 3 percent of the pre-2003 Iraqi population, they constitute approximately 15 and 20 percent of registered Iraqi refugees in Jordan and Syria, respectively, and Christians account for 35 and 64 percent, respectively, of all registered Iraqi refugees in Lebanon and Turkey."

It is critical to note, as the figures above indicate, that the violence and intimidation that Iraq's Christians and other ethno-religious communities have faced is targeted. In July 2008, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Migration & Refugee Services said this about the minority religious communities: "These groups, whose home has been what is now Iraq for many centuries, are literally being obliterated—not because they are fleeing generalized violence but because they are being specifically and viciously victimized by Islamic extremists and, in some cases, common criminals."

We need a comprehensive policy or even a point person at the embassy in Baghdad to

address the unique situation of these defenseless minorities. An article in Christianity Today by Philip Jenkins described what was happening this way: "What we are seeing then is the death of one of the world's greatest Christian enterprises."

I urge you, in your final days as Secretary of State, to take dramatic action on behalf of this hurting population and a good starting point is the recent recommendations put forward by USCIRF. I respectfully request a response from you, rather than the assistant secretary for Legislative Affairs.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

IN MEMORY OF MARY JAMES

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sorrow that I inform the House of the death of Mrs. Mary L. James.

Mary, who was born in West Plains, MO, was a graduate of Harrisonville, MO, High School and the University of Missouri, where she received a bachelor of science degree in education. Mary also earned a master's of public administration degree from the University of Kansas.

Through the years, Mary dedicated her life to education, health care, and to the betterment of her community and her state. She was a teacher, a volunteer, and lived her whole life surrounded by or working in the news business. In 1999, Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan appointed Mary as a member of the University of Missouri Board of Curators, and she became the board's president in 2005.

Mary also served organizations affiliated with the University of Missouri, which she so dearly loved, including the Chancellor's Fund for Excellence, the Advisory and Development Committee within the College of Education, and the Griffith's Leadership Society for Women. Mary was also a member of the Jefferson Club. In 2005, the Alumni Alliance recognized Mary for Outstanding Alumni Service to the University of Missouri System.

Mary also worked as the executive director of the Cass Medical Center Foundation, on the board of the Healthcare Foundation of Greater Kansas City, and on the board of the Cass Medical Foundation. In 2006, she was recognized by the University of Missouri as a Distinguished Friend to the School of Nursing because of her commitment to health care and to the University.

Mary also served as a member of the Harrisonville Park Board, including time as chairman. During her tenure on the park board, she advocated for a community sales tax that led to building a pool and maintenance facility for the city of Harrisonville, she wrote a grant and raised funds to build an outdoor theater, and she helped plan for a community center. Mary was a member of the Harrisonville Chamber of Commerce, the Harrisonville United Methodist Church, Chapter G.R. PEO, Delta Gamma, and the University of Missouri Alumni Association.

Mary's family had been prominent in the Missouri newspaper business. Her parents,

the late J.W. Brown, Jr., and Wanda A. Brown, were publishers of the Cass County Democrat-Missourian in Harrisonville. Her father served as Missouri Press Association President. She worked for 26 years as the human resources manager for Cass County Publishing, volunteering extensively in her spare time.

In 1971, Mary married Bill James, who himself has been a prominent figure in the Missouri newspaper business and is a former president of the Missouri Press Association. Bill is now the publisher of the Daily Star-Journal in Warrensburg, Missouri.

Mary, who is survived by Bill, by her two sons and their wives, by one granddaughter, by her mother, and by her sister, will be remembered fondly by all who had the privilege of knowing her, including me. She has led an exemplary life, which ought to serve as a model for young people in Missouri and throughout our nation. I know members of the Congress will join me in paying tribute the life of Mary James and in extending condolences to her family and friends.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KALAU-PAPA MEMORIAL ACT OF 2009

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to authorize establishment of a memorial at Kalaupapa National Historical Park on the island of Molokai, Hawaii, to honor the memory and sacrifices of the some 8,000 Hansen's disease patients who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa peninsula between 1866 and 1969. I want to thank my friend and colleague Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE for cosponsoring this legislation.

I had hoped to see this bill become law last year. The 110th Congress version of the bill (H.R. 3332) passed the House in February 2008. It was approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in June 2008. Unfortunately, despite heroic efforts by Senators AKAKA, INOUE, and BINGAMAN, the bill did not come before the full Senate for a vote.

The policy of exiling persons with the disease that was then known as leprosy began under the Kingdom of Hawaii and continued under the governments of the Republic of Hawaii, the Territory of Hawaii, and the State of Hawaii. Children, mothers, and fathers were forcibly separated and sent to the isolated peninsula of Kalaupapa, which for most of its history could only be accessed by water or via a steep mule trail. Children born to parents at Kalaupapa were taken away from their mothers and sent to orphanages or to other family members outside of Kalaupapa. Hawaii's isolation laws for people with Hansen's disease were not repealed until 1969, even though medications to control the disease had been available since the late 1940s.

While most of us know about the sacrifices of Father Damien, who dedicated his life to care for those exiled to Kalaupapa, fewer know of the courage and sacrifices of the patients who were torn from their families and left to make a life in this isolated area. It is important that their lives be remembered.

Of the some 8,000 former patients buried in Kalaupapa, only some 1,300 have marked graves. A memorial listing the names of those who were exiled to Kalaupapa and died there is a fitting tribute and is consistent with the primary purpose of the park, which is "to preserve and interpret the Kalaupapa settlement for the education and inspiration of present and future generations."

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, a non-profit organization consisting of patient residents at Kalaupapa National Historical Park and their family members and friends, was established in August 2003 to promote the value and dignity of the more than 8,000 persons—some 90 percent of whom were native Hawaiian—who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa peninsula. A central goal of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is to make certain that the lives of these individuals are honored and remembered through the establishment of a memorial or memorials within the boundaries of the park at Kalawao or Kalaupapa.

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has made a commitment to raise the funds needed to design and build the memorial and will work with the National Park Service on design and location of the memorial.

I have met with the elderly residents of Kalaupapa; many have expressed a strong desire to know that the memorial will be built before they die. I also read the heartfelt and compelling testimony submitted by current patients and family members of former patients who want to make sure not only that the story of Kalaupapa is told but that the patients are recognized as individuals by having the names of each of those exiled to Kalaupapa and buried there recorded for posterity. Families that have visited Kalaupapa and Kalawao searching in vain for the graves of their family members will find comfort in seeing those names recorded on a memorial.

The National Park Service is supportive of this legislation. I am hopeful that the Senate will soon pass an omnibus bill including the text of this legislation and other public lands bills.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 374

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, today we are introducing legislation that will begin a long-needed course correction in U.S. interrogation policies.

In the months and years after the September 11 terrorist attacks, I repeatedly urged the Bush administration to establish a legal framework that allowed the United States to identify, detain, and interrogate those who would harm us while protecting our fundamental values. Instead, the administration claimed for itself the right to ignore core provisions of U.S. law regarding the treatment of detainees. It brushed aside international agreements like the Geneva Convention, which have both protected our troops and set the bar for human rights.

The result is that United States has paid a steep price in eroded moral authority. We've flouted the very legal protections that we've tried to export to the rest of the world. We've undermined the international human rights standards that we helped create. And we've provided a huge recruiting tool to al Qaeda.

For many years, the sponsors of this legislation have fought to restore respect for the law and human rights to our detention and interrogation policies.

Now, with the election of a new President, we believe that goal is within reach. This legislation is an essential first step.

First, the bill requires the closure of the prison facility at Guantanamo Bay. The prison is so widely viewed as illegitimate, so plainly inconsistent with America's proud legal traditions, that it has become a stinging symbol of our tarnished standing abroad.

The Supreme Court has brought the curtain down on the legal fiction on which the prison was premised. It's time for Congress to take the next step and close it permanently.

Our bill would require the President to close the facility within 1 year of enactment and give him a range of choices for dealing with the detainees. These options include transfer to a detainee's country of origin, so long as that country provides certain assurances regarding treatment of the detainee; transfer to a facility in the United States to be tried before military or civilian authorities, like the first 1993 World Trade Center bombers, who are currently being held in Supermax prisons in the United States; transfer to a qualified international tribunal; or, if appropriate, outright release.

Second, the bill prohibits the interrogation of any individual held by a U.S. intelligence agency or its contractors using any technique or treatment not authorized by the United States Army Field Manual on Human Intelligence Collector Operations. Torture and abusive treatment is not only contrary to American values, the law, and international human rights agreements, there is no evidence that it yields reliable intelligence. This legislation will require that our intelligence agencies do not engage in such practices.

Third, the bill forbids the Central Intelligence Agency from using a contractor or subcontractor to carry out an interrogation, ending a practice that has been fraught with abuse.

Finally, the bill requires that the intelligence community provide the International Committee of the Red Cross with access to any individual in its custody, providing transparency and accountability that will restore the world's confidence in our detention and interrogation practices. The notion that our country essentially "disappeared" some detainees is abhorrent—we are not the Soviet Gulag or the Chilean military.

The portions of the legislation relating to the prison facility at Guantanamo Bay are identical to H.R. 2212, which I introduced in the 110th Congress, and the remaining provisions are identical to legislation introduced earlier this week by Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN.

We urge swift passage in both Chambers.

HONORING THOMAS MAYFIELD

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Thomas Mayfield for his dedication to his family, business and community. Mr. Mayfield lost his fight against lymphoma on December 9, 2008; three days shy of his seventy-eighth birthday.

Thomas Mayfield was born on December 12, 1930 in Holtville, California and was raised in Imperial County, California. As an adolescent his family moved to Hughson, California where he attended and graduated from Hughson High School in 1948. As a young man, Mr. Mayfield worked in construction in Alaska for 1 year before joining the Air Force. He served in the Air Force from 1950 to 1951, and returned to work in Alaska until 1953. In 1954 he married his wife, Anita, and moved back to Hughson. They began a small farm growing walnuts, almonds and grapes. The business eventually grew to include a hulling division. Up until a few months ago Mr. Mayfield was still working out in the fields on the family farm.

Mr. Mayfield has a long history of involvement in the Hughson community. He was a member of the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, the Hughson Chamber of Commerce and heavily involved with Saint Anthony's Church. He also served 10 years on the Hughson Elementary School Board. In 1992, he decided to run for an open seat on the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors District 2, he was elected and began his 16-year run on the Board in 1993. Supervisor Mayfield was a strong voice for agriculture on the board and a proponent of family issues. He served on numerous committees and commissions; including serving as Vice President in 1996 and as the chairman of the board in 1997. He was the Board's representative to the Commission on Aging, Fish and Wildlife Committee, General Plan Update Committee, Joint Powers Authority Committee and member of the LAFCO Commission. He served as an alternate to the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District Board of Directors, Safety Committee, Stanislaus Area Association of Governments Executive Committee and an alternate to the Emergency Medical Services Board of Directors and the Stanislaus-Ceres Redevelopment Committee. He was serving as chairman this year until he became too ill to attend meetings. Supervisor Mayfield was completing his fourth term on the board and did not run for re-election this year. He was an advocate, a dedicated public servant, a leader and a great friend to all that knew him.

Supervisor Mayfield is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Anita; a daughter, Lisa Mayfield-Rigg; a son, Tom Mayfield; and three grandsons. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Laurie Woodward.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Supervisor Thomas Mayfield for his dedicated services to his family, his business and his community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.